

Dubuque County
Board of Supervisors

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DONNA L. SMITH
ERIC MANTERNACH
WAYNE DEMMER

July 27, 2009

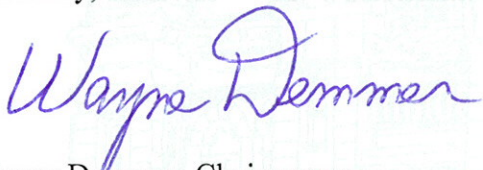
To Whom it may concern;

We, the Dubuque County Board of Supervisors endorse and support Seton Catholic School's I-JOBS grant application to secure funding for a new PK-5 grade school in Peosta, Iowa and the renovation of the existing 6-8 building in Farley, Iowa.

Their campaign had secured 3.6 million dollars in fund raising and they are applying for an additional 3.6 million in grant dollars to complete the project.

Please consider this application as an educational priority for the citizens and children of our county.

Sincerely,



Wayne Demmer, Chairperson
Dubuque County Board of Supervisors

WD/mas



P.O. Box 133
Farley, Iowa 52046
Ph: 563-744-3909
Fax: 563-744-3212

July 27, 2009

Mary Smock, Principal
Seton Catholic School
210 2nd Ave. SE
Farley, IA 52046

Dear Grant Review Committee ,

Our group at Advanced Precast would like to thank you for the opportunity to price your new school project. Because of the current economy we pray projects like yours can find the funds needed to get started. What a wonderful project this would make for the communities businesses and the education of our future generations.

Advanced Precast was established in 2008 just as the economy began experiencing difficult economic times. We have seen a decrease in building projects which in turn has forced us to put a hiring freeze on our business.

This project would be beneficial to the entire construction community in Dubuque County. The caliber of the project has the potential to not only retain jobs but create jobs as well.

It is with great enthusiasm that we support this project and look forward the benefits that it will provide to the economy in our area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Decker'.

Mike Decker

President



HORSFIELD COMPANIES

505 East Main Street
P.O. Box 305
Epworth, Iowa 52045
Phone (563) 876-3335
Fax (563) 876-3487
www.horsfieldinc.com



July 23, 2009

Dear Grant Committee,

I am writing to express my support for the Seton Catholic School Building Project and encourage your committee to give thoughtful consideration to this most worthy project.

As a longtime resident and business owner in the area, I foresee great benefits to our local economy by having this project move forward.

I have supported this project nearly from its inception, lending my expertise in the area of development and construction whenever possible to move this project forward.

Over the past months, the construction industry has been hit with harder times that we have seen in recent years and have noted a significant decline in the overall health of our local economy. The Seton Catholic School Building project would be a great way to reenergize this sluggish construction industry in this area.

I anticipate that a project of this magnitude will allow businesses to retain employees that otherwise might be considered for layoffs, and perhaps even allow them to hire new employees to meet the demands a project this size.

I am enthusiastic about the mission of this school but also equally committed to retaining and increasing employees as needed. I look forward to all of these positive benefits when this vision for improved facilities becomes a reality in our area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Pat Horsfield'.

Pat Horsfield, CEO
HCI Companies



Top Grade Excavating

PO Box 181

302 N Center Ave.

Epworth IA 52045

Phone: (563) 876-9811, Fax: (563) 876-9714

July 24th, 2009

Jeff Pomeranz
Chairman
I-Jobs Board of Directors
2015 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50312

Dear Mr. Pomeranz:

This letter is written in support of the campaign to raise funds for the new Seton Catholic School PreK-5 School in Peosta, Iowa and the renovation and expansion of the Grade 6-8 center in Farley, Iowa. Top Grade Excavating is involved primarily in underground utility construction as well as grading, demolition, and related building site work. We are a young company with 5+ years of experience in business. The natural disasters of 2008 and subsequent trying economic times have made it particularly difficult to grow, but we are confident that with programs like the Iowa Infrastructure Investment Initiative, funds will be available for projects suited for our company.

Top Grade Excavating has both prime contractor and subcontractor experience on projects with similar size and scope of the Seton Catholic School Project. Much of the site utility work will require staging and scheduling that will allow our company, which is geographically centered between the two cities, to be well-positioned for the work. Our company regularly employs between 12-20 full-time equipment operators, laborers, truck drivers, and field management personnel. These positions command in the area of \$18-\$26 dollars per hour along with \$9-\$15 per hour in fringe benefits. This project would allow up to 5 of those employees to retain their position and depending on the labor demands of concurrent projects, it would allow for the creation of 2-5 temporary positions.

Iowans are known for a dedication to community and loyalty to their neighbors. The small businesses in eastern Iowa share this sentiment, and Top Grade Excavating is no exception. A project the size of the Seton Catholic School Project would infuse monies into the surrounding communities that are sure to stay local. The Seton Catholic School Project will help our company recover from the 2008 natural disasters, and maintain or create positions within. Both of these are stated goals of Governor Culver and the I-jobs program. Please consider our endorsement of this project when making your selection. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd Horsfield", is written over a horizontal line.

Todd Horsfield
President
Top Grade Excavating, Inc.

Jeffery J. Burds, C.P.A.
210 Bierman Road, Suite E
Epworth, IA 52045

July 27, 2009

Dear iJobs Grant Committee:

It is with great enthusiasm and urgency that I write this letter of support for the Seton Catholic School Building project. As a long time local business owner, it is a project for which I foresee tremendous economic and educational benefits for our community.

We are located in western Dubuque County, which is comprised of many small towns and rural communities. The far-reaching benefits for this part of the county are much needed as our local economies have seen a downturn in almost every business sector. Securing funds through the iJobs grant process will provide instant stimulus through job creation and retention.

The Seton Catholic School project originated from a grass roots effort in our community and securing these funds through this competitive grant process is the final step in a process for the betterment of our kids, our families, and local business. Our entire community will reap substantial economic and educational benefits for many, many years to come.

I and my firm are committed to Seton Catholic School and this project. With iJobs funds as the catalyst, we look forward to breaking ground in the very near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff J. Burds", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jeffery J. Burds, C.P.A.

July 25, 2009

To whom it may concern:

My name is Angie Bennett, my husband Rufus and I are the parents of three young children. We live in Farley, Iowa and our two oldest children are current students of Seton Schools. Our son, Jackson was born with a very serious medical condition called Hirschsprung's Disease. This disease affects the large intestine and an often time is misdiagnosed, therefore has a high mortality rate. Jackson had four surgeries and nine extended hospital stays before his first birthday. Several of our trips to the University Hospital were in either a helicopter or ambulance. The prognosis was very grim, the doctors said that IF Jackson lived through infancy he would NEVER attend school, play sports, live a "normal" life and he would be a fragile, sickly boy. They predicted him to only ever reach 7-12% body weight for his height. We were to expect a minimum of 4-6 hospital stays per calendar year.

We continued to work with Jackson and his body, trying desperately to keep him healthy and happy. This work included daily exercises with his stomach muscles, special meals/diet, and regular restroom visits through the night. Jackson did make it through infancy and reached school age. Being teachers, Rufus and I understand how important the social aspect of school/life is and wanted Jackson to make friends and learn along with peers. Hirschsprung's Disease affects the large intestine, making any and all waste liquid form. Basically Jackson's body is like our bodies when we suffer from really strong/bad flu. Everything goes through his body 2-3 times faster than a 'normal' body. His body requires twice as much liquids and small salty snacks throughout the day. Because things move through so quickly, Jackson has to use the restroom several times during the school day. This also puts him at high risk for dehydration.

My husband and I researched the public and parochial schools in our town. Rufus and I feel strongly that a spiritual life is extremely important; however our private school did not have the facilities available that are necessary for Jackson. Jackson has to have easy access to a private restroom. Seton does not have a private restroom or nurses office for Jackson to use the restroom and to eat snacks in between classes. We thought long and hard, and decided our only option was to have Jackson attend the public school.

Jackson had a great first year of Pre-Kindergarten at the public school. However, we still really felt he was missing out. We wanted so badly for Jackson to have the chance to practice his faith during school. So, we enrolled Jackson at Seton Schools. The chance we were taking made both of us so nervous and anxious. We feared accidents, embarrassment for Jackson and possible regression medically. Our specialist at the University had told us that school time was the 2nd most dangerous time for these kids, next to infancy. Students with this disease have to use the restroom, and if they experience difficult situations with getting to the restroom, they end up not going. This makes for terrible issues with the stomach and hospital stays. That year we had to monitor everything so close and be in almost hourly contact with the secretary and

classroom teacher. The building did not have the space or the correct physical layout for any student needing privacy or a separate restroom.

Our family finds Seton Schools to have top notch teachers and administration. Unfortunately the facilities make it very difficult for our son to attend this wonderful school. We pray Seton is able to improve the physical set-up and the facilities to make it easier for all students to continue to attend.

Today Jackson Bennett is a happy, confident 10 year old boy, standing over 5 feet tall and 105 pounds. He competes in a variety of sports and has a smile that melts even strangers' hearts. Looking at Jackson from the outside, you would never know his history and his current challenges. We are so thankful. And like most parents we want the ultimate best for our kids. We want him and others to be able to attend Seton Schools. We feel it is so important for ALL kids to have the choice to attend a private school and to grow their faith.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions. We truly appreciate any consideration to financially help Seton provide kids and families with the appropriate facilities to educate all kids.

Jackson is our little miracle, we feel compelled to teach him and our daughters about the great things God does for each of us. Please help us make Seton a place where all kids, those with medical conditions and those without, feel safe and comfortable.

Thank-you,



Angie and Rufus Bennett
510 3rd Ave NW
Farley, Iowa 52046
563-580-1249

July 23, 2009

Dear iJobs Grant Committee:

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter of support for the Seton Catholic School Building project. As a long time business owner in the area, it is a project for which I foresee great benefit to this community.

Securing funds through the iJobs grant process will stimulate this western part of Dubuque County through job creation, retention, and in families who will chose Seton and do business in the area.

The benefits to this part of the county will be far-reaching at a time when our local economies have seen a downturn in almost every aspect the business sector in the area.

The Seton Catholic School project has originated from a grass roots effort in our community and securing these funds through this competitive grant process would be the final step in a process for the betterment of kids, families, and area business for many, many years to come.

I am wholeheartedly behind this project and look forward to seeing it come to fruition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Timothy P. Greenwood". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Tim Greenwood, Owner
Greenwood's Grocery Store, Farley, IA

To Whom It May Concern:

The decision about where to send my daughter, Jacklyn, to school was a very difficult one. I spent countless hours pondering which option was best for her and what school fit the needs of our family. After much research we decided to send to Seton. She adjusted well to school and we felt we had made the right decision. Then in 2001 our whole lives changed. Jacklyn was diagnosed as a diabetic.

As a parent when you are faced with such news you feel as if your life has been turned upside down. It took awhile to adjust and a lot of changes had to be made in our lifestyle. In retrospect I believe it was harder on me than it was on Jacklyn. I wanted the best for my daughter and labored over every decision and how it would impact her life.

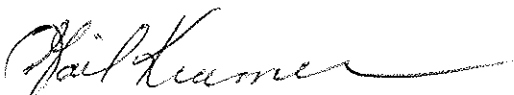
I realized that at this time I was once again faced with the decision about what school Jacklyn should attend. We were very happy with Seton. Jacklyn had made friends and was doing very well. However, the facilities might be a hindrance to Jacklyn's safety. The gym in Peosta is not attached to the school and is actually across the street. What would happen if Jacklyn's levels went down when she was not even near the office? What would happen if she needed medical attention and the only person available was the PE teacher? What if we switched schools and Jacklyn was unable to adjust? She was already adjusting to so many other things that a five year old should never have to think about. The what if's nearly killed me.

We did decide to keep Jacklyn at Seton and she excelled. She graduated from 8th grade last year and we never regret the decision to keep her there. She has matured into a wonderful young lady that any mother would be proud of. However, as I look back it is frustrating that I had to spend countless days worrying about her safety.

Statistically juvenile diabetes is on the rise. Approximately 35 children in America are diagnosed each day. I know that although Jacklyn was the first diabetic at Seton there have been several since her. I empathize with these parents who's worlds are turned upside down with the medical issues and now have to consider whether or not to take their child out of the environment that they love and place them into a completely new environment because of facilities.

I support the Seton project 100%. Although Jacklyn no longer attends Seton I want nothing more than for parents to no longer have to consider these things when there life is suddenly changed. The Seton project is not only good for the communities in Dubuque County but it is also good for our children, the future of our State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gail Kramer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gail Kramer



July 23, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter of support from the City of Peosta on behalf of the building project for Seton Catholic School.

Peosta has experienced tremendous growth since 1990 growing from 135 residents to the current population of 1100. The majority of the population growth has been young families with children under the ages of 15. In 2008, there were 16 new homes constructed in Peosta and so far in 2009 there have been 10 building permits issued. We expect this trend to continue through the rest of 2009 and into the coming years.

There are approximately 1000 people employed at businesses located in the Peosta Industrial Park and an additional 320 employees at Northeast Iowa Community College. Many of these employees also live in the Peosta area.

The City feels that it is important that Peosta offers both public and private educational opportunities to the citizens of Peosta and the surrounding area. The current facilities for Seton School are too small to meet the educational needs now and into the future. The building was constructed in the 1920's and is in dire need of replacement.

We appreciate your time in considering this application.

Sincerely,


James Weydert
Mayor

SCHUELLER CONSTRUCTION

506 Tahoe Ct.
Farley, Iowa 52046

(563) 744-9181

July 28, 2009

To Whom It May Concern,

Being in the Construction Business for over 30 years, I am happy to write this letter in support of the Seton Catholic School Building Project. Seton is a huge asset to our community and has been providing the highest quality education to our young people, and with this much needed updating of facilities hopefully will continue to provide these services well into the future.

As everywhere else in the country the construction industry has been depressed in this area, and has resulted in several lay offs and cutbacks in working hours. This grant would give a boost to the construction trades in our area, and allow many workers to retain their jobs.

It would certainly help to stimulate other economic development in this area, since most businesses looking for areas to build or expand look at the local school systems as a major deciding factor.

Thank You,
